



homestead sitting around the log fire, merrily blazing in the great chimney grate, and telling stories.

Save the glow from the flames making ghostly shadows flit across the ceiling and walls there was no other light in the room, for we were trying to be as romantic as possible.

Outside in the black night a furious storm was raging and the wind, moaning and whistling down the chimney and through the huge fire trees, mingled with the beating rain on roof and window panes, gave us the weird and spooky feeling we desired.

Finally, satiated with fairly hobgoblin stories, we urged Aunt Kate to relate her adventure with the escaped negro convict.

"When I was about eighteen," commenced Aunt Kate, with a shudder at the remembrance of her awful experience. "On just such a black and stormy night as now, we were sitting in this very room. The little ones had gone to bed, mother was knitting in a big rocking chair and dozing, for it was quite late, and father and I were playing a long and interesting game of chess, which neither of us wanted to stop, although it was time we were all asleep."

"The day before a negro convict had murdered his keeper and escaped from the prison in the town next to our little village, and, while we then didn't know of it, the people around were greatly frightened and searching parties were out looking for the fellow, who was a most daring and desperate character."

"We had no handy neighbors then, as we have at present, the nearest being a half a mile away, and beside our maid servant in her attic room snoring soundly our family was alone on the place. We didn't even have a dog, and our only protection in case we needed any was that old army musket that still hangs on the wall yonder over the door."

"We had lived so long in perfect safety that no idea of danger had ever troubled us, so, when mother, waking from a comfortable doze, said she felt chilly, I immediately offered to run upstairs to my room just overhead, and bring down a wrap which I knew was hanging in my closet."

"I didn't want her to ask the time, for if she found it was midnight, as it was, our game, then in its most exciting stage, would have been spoiled, and the glory of my beating my father for once would have been lost."

"So up I jumped and without wasting precious moments in getting a light I rushed upstairs and into my room, which was dark as Egypt."

"The storm outside was a wild one and the wind was roaring fearfully through the trees and shaking the shutters as if it would rattle them off."

"But I had no difficulty in groping my way to my closet, where among my dresses and things the wrap hung."

"When I opened the closet door I fancied I heard a movement inside, but thinking, maybe, a mouse had made it, I began feeling with my hands among the hanging garments for the article I was after."

"Suddenly my fingers touched a man's bewhiskered face."

"Ere I could give a scream for help two great, rough hands had me by the

throat, dragging me in the closet and choking my breath away."

"Then my presence of mind and courage showed themselves."

"In spite of my terror, in spite of the pain of strangulation, I managed to stamp and pound my feet several times on the floor."

"Do that again, yer die," hissed my terrible assailant's fiendish voice in my ears, while his fierce, strong fingers tightened themselves about my poor neck, which is scarred yet with the cuts his sharp nails dug."

"But with what little strength was left me I pounded on the floor the second time with my heels and—made up my mind to die. I hardly expected the signals would be understood, and if they were I feared father alone would be no match for the villain who then had me pushed in the far corner of the closet and was fast strangling my life away."

Aunt Kate stopped for a moment to rest, while, with faces pale and horri-

fied, we gazed at the cruel scars faintly showing on her fair, white neck.

"I guess mother had better finish the story, for she saw the ending and I didn't," said brave Aunt Kate, "or, perhaps it is too late to continue tonight—besides, you may all get too frightened to go to bed," she smiled, seeing our eager, but fear-stricken looks.

"O, no, indeed," we gasped in chorus, "we'll be just as bold as you were. It isn't late yet. Come, gran'ma, please tell us if dear Aunt Kate was killed or not. Please, please do."

Grandmother, unable to withstand our volley of appeals, began:

"Well, children," she soberly spoke, "I suppose I'll have to—but don't blame me if you have nightmares of black robbers and murderers."

"After pretty Kate had gone upstairs her father picked up a book to read till she returned and I—I guess I commenced dozing again. At any rate I was startled suddenly by a pounding sound overhead. Husband must have heard it, too, for he laid down his book to listen."

"What noise was that?" I asked, "seems like some one calling us."

"O, nothing," he answered, "only the storm, for it was blowing great guns outside. He took up his book and commenced quietly reading again."

"I think you had better run upstairs and see," I said.

"O, it isn't worth while," he laughed. "If Kate wanted us she would call," and then in his provoking slow way he added: "Kate will be down in a minute and I want to finish our game before I go."

"But I wasn't satisfied: a mother somehow has a keener sense when her children are in peril, and while, of course, I didn't dream that anything

was wrong, I naturally felt apprehensive."

"At last I spoke up: 'Well, if you won't go, I will,' and taking a lighted candle I started."

"Before I got to the foot of the stairs I heard a second sound—apparently of some one knocking on the floor or a door, I couldn't tell which, but it made me hurry until I entered Kate's room. Just then a puff of wind blew out my light and left me in pitch darkness."

"Kate! Kate!" I called, "where are you? Is anything the matter?"

"Not a reply came back, only the noise of the tempest and the wind blowing in an open window broke the uneasy silence."

"I felt my way back to the top of the stairs. 'John!' I shouted, 'come up quick and bring a lantern, for my candle is blown out. Something is the matter.'"

"The tone of my voice must have alarmed my husband, for quickly I saw him mounting the stairs with his lighted lantern and, also, his musket which was always kept loaded for animals stealing our chickens, when both of us entered the room, calling 'Kate!' but, as before, no reply came."

"I looked under the bed, then went to the closet and took hold of the knob to open it, for I knew Kate had intended going there."

"Instantly the door burst open—a force that threw me against the wall, while out bounded a gigantic negro dressed in prison stripes and, with a yell that still rings in my ears, he rushed like a flash to the open window and began climbing out."

"But quick as he was, I was quicker. Before his immense paws could leave go of the sill inside to let him drop to the ground, I had the sash down on them and was hanging on with all my weight, holding the terrible wretch as in a vise, suspended on the outside of the house, a good ten feet from the bottom."

"Quick, John, shoot," I gasped, "before my strength gives out."

"My husband fired at once—right through the glass, but, owing to the darkness without, and my being in the way, he failed to hit the scoundrel."

"In a minute another flash and gunshot, and whistles came from the road by the gate, and then a dozen lantern lights appeared on the lawn below me, with shouts of: 'Here he is, boys! We've got him.'"

"Grasping the situation instantly, I let go the sash, hearing more shots, and the awful life and death struggle, as the escaped convict dropped straight among the party of pursuers, who fortunately were at hand in the nick of time."

"Then we thought of Kate and rushed to the closet with our lanterns. 'On the floor amid the tumbled clothing the poor girl lay, and we thought she was dead.'"

"Tenderly we carried her out and placed her on the bed when, thank Heaven, we found that her heart beat, though very faintly."

"Some of the searching party raced for the doctor, but ere he came I had brought my darling back to life."

"A reward—five hundred dollars—had been offered for the recapture of the convict. When his captors, who nearly killed him before they could bind his arms, found out about Kate's awful discovery, they nobly insisted that the money was rightfully hers and she got it, but not for millions would we go through with our terrible experience again."—H. G. Dodge, in Goodall's Sun.

HOW TRUSTS OPERATE.

Mild Arrangement of the Table Glassware Trust By the High Tariff Boston Commercial Bulletin.

The following article on the glassware trust from the Commercial Bulletin is interesting:

"When the United States Glass Co. was formed in July it issued a circular to its customers all over the country stating its policy, and among other things announcing that it did not intend to advance the price. Of course the combination was formed for the express purpose of increasing the profit on their goods, but this was to be done by economically operating their factories. This was to be effected by having each factory make a special or several special lines; for instance, one could make goblets and stem ware and soon. The sets of molds would also be limited, the saving amounting to considerable, as each set cost from \$3,000 to \$5,000. The number of high skilled officials could be reduced. Again there would be no danger of accumulating stock, as a factory making a certain line could shut down if there was a surplus on the market, and the manufacturers joined in one strong association could be more independent of the union of glass workers, with which they have in the past been unable to cope. Thus by gaining these advantages the association proposed to make greater profits than in the past."

"Four months have not passed yet, but prices have already been pushed up on staple lines from five to ten per cent., and on some specialties, such as Cologne bottles and similar goods, the advance has been fully fifty per cent. Jobbers look for a greater advance than this before the year is out. What its limits will be is hard even to surmise, but judging from the low basis on which goods sold before the combination was effected, the advance will be considerable."

"The increase in the price of novelties and new patterns has not come yet. What are called new patterns have been on the market now since last January, and no newer ones are expected until the advent of the new year. When they are put on the market the jobbers say they will most likely be obliged to pay comparatively more than in past years. The advance is very likely to be considerable also, as the making of new patterns entails the risk of not having the goods take with the purchasing public, a point which competition in the past did not admit being fully taken into account."

"By the way, prices have been advanced of late on table glassware. It is natural to suppose the United States Glass Co. has practical control of the market. There are in this country about twenty-six factories in all that make table glassware, and when the association was first formed it included fourteen of these. Most of the powerful concerns were secured, yet several remained outside. Since July two or three more companies have entered and of the ten or so left but two or three are large concerns that have the power to harass the combination."

"These two or three concerns, it is understood, have agreed to be friendly with the new United States Glass Co. and follow the policy of the latter in putting prices up or down. There are some who expect to see these outsiders yet immersed in the combination, so friendly has been their attitude in the past."

SHALL HIDES BE TAXED?

Secretary Rusk Favors a Duty on Hides to "Get Even" With the Boot and Shoe Manufacturers—Real Animos of His Recommendations.

When the news of the election in Massachusetts reached Washington, Secretary Rusk was the only man in the gloomy group around the White house who betrayed his conviction that national issues were involved in the Massachusetts fight, and he did it by a silly threat. According to the New York Tribune the purport of his remarks was as follows:

"Secretary Rusk declares that the elections went as he expected, and he was not at all surprised. The only comment he had to make was that he would be in favor of restoring the tariff on hides, as the Massachusetts shoe manufacturers, for whose benefit hides were put on the free list, had voted with the democrats. He believed it a good idea to make them pay more for their hides."

The secretary would punish the boot and shoe manufacturers for voting in their own interests by "taxing hides." The question arises would the boot and shoe manufacturers be the worst sufferers? Hardly. The tax would have to be paid by the people who buy boots and shoes. There is, however, another view of the question. According to the doctrine taught by McKinley, the foreigners who sell us hides, not the boot and shoe manufacturers, would have to pay the duty. Secretary Rusk does not agree to this doctrine, for if he did he would not recommend a tax on hides as the best way of "getting even."

Secretary Rusk's plan has a deeper meaning. He never overlooks the interests of the "Big Four" of Chicago; he never loses an opportunity to put in a word for the benefit of this group of millionaires, although he pretends to be the farmers' friend.

In 1890, during the debate on the McKinley bill, the New York Tribune showed clearly how a tariff on hides would operate. It said: "It can hardly be believed that the home producer will be benefited by the imposition of a duty which would apparently help nobody so much as the rich combination of beef packers in Chicago."

Col. Bayne, one of the high tariff members of McKinley's ways and means committee, showed more clearly still for whose interests a duty on hides was being advocated when he said during the debate: "As a matter of fact, the business of hides is largely in the hands of such men as Phil Armour (one of the 'Big Four') who can consign to a tannery a hundred or several hundred hides at once, and it is they who will be benefited by this duty, rather than the farmer, who has only one or two hides to sell at a time."

What the real effect of a tariff on

hides would be is shown by the following statement made by Thomas E. Proctor, of the Proctor Leather Co., of Boston. Said Mr. Proctor: "The only effect it would have would be to increase the price of shoes and curtail our foreign trade in leather. There is no surer way to make New England solidly and reliably democratic than to put a tax on hides, as contemplated. Let me show you how it would work. The trade offered would be that with the Argentine republic and Brazil. The leather made from American hides is that used in the uppers of the shoes. Very little, I may say no sole leather is made from American hides. To put a tax on hides brought from South America, if it had any effect at all on shoes made for our home trade, would be to increase their price. On the other hand it would materially hurt the business of our tanners. Very much of the leather imported from South America is tanned here and shipped to England. Now, if these hides are taxed it will make it impossible for our tanners to compete with those of Canada, who get their hides from the same source without tax and with the advantage of an unlimited supply of hemlock bark. Canadian tanners would derive the benefit, our own tanners would suffer the loss under such a tax. With us hides are an industrial product. If the hide was not sold at all there would be just as many cattle raised as there are now, as the beef and tallow form the main product. We do not, however, export any of our own hides. Of the sole leather tanned in this country fully one-fourth is sent abroad. To place a tax on this leather would wholly ruin this trade, as Canada, where hides are free, would absorb it all."

A duty on hides under Rusk's plan to "get even" would, as shown above, establish a big tanning industry in Canada at our expense, just as the duty on silver lead ore has built up smelters in Mexico. Are we really to repeat this unwise action?

A SAMPLE CASE.

How the Tariff Increases the Cost of Carriages and Wagons.

The carriage and wagon industry of the United States may be considered to be fairly well established. We not only make our own, but furnish carriages to every civilized nation of the earth. England herself buys annually of us more than a quarter of a million dollars' worth of wagons, while her possessions in Australia invest \$400,000 more with us on this account. But our export trade is but a tithe of what it would be with free raw material and with better facilities for shipping, such as we might have if there were no restrictions upon shipping or commerce. The carriage and wagon manufacturers begin to realize this themselves, all but one of them (republicans and democrats alike), in Cortland, N. Y., the carriage center of eastern United States, signed a petition protesting against the duties on material proposed by McKinley. But the major was deaf to their appeals, and increased the duties on many materials for carriages.

The duties on materials for carriage trimmings—English broadcloth, plush curdroy, etc.—increases the cost of a \$75 carriage about \$2. Not a yard of corduroy is made in this country, and the greater part of the broadcloth used has been imported at about 100 per cent duty. A leading manufacturer of Cortland says: "Over \$250,000 worth of cloths are used in this place, seven-eighths of which until recently has been imported. Not a thing that goes into a carriage is untaxed by the tariff except lumber, which is also probably higher because of the tariff."

The duty on carriage hardware is 45 per cent. It serves no purpose except to enable the national association of carriage hardware manufacturers to keep up prices, which it raised materially when it was organized a few years ago. Nearly all wheels are purchased of the wheel trust. The duty on iron and steel adds something to the cost of these and also to the cost of axles, many of which are made of imported steel. It is safe to say that the cost of carriages is increased 10 per cent by tariff taxes. What an impetus would be given to both our home and foreign trade if prices could be reduced 10 per cent.

THE AMERICAN HOG.

The German Tariff Opposes the Removal of Prohibition on American Pork.

In his recent letter to the editor of the Bucyrus (O.) Journal Mr. Blaine said:

"Germany, without negotiating a formal treaty, has removed the prohibition on pork, and our government in consideration thereof has left her sugar on the free list. This opens to us an entirely new market, and \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 of American pork will be consumed per annum where not a pound has been taken for ten years."

Before Germany prohibited the importation of our pork our exports to that country were as follows:

Bacon and hams.....	1899	1891
Pork.....	\$1,796,491	\$1,679,926
Total.....	29,938	198,215
	\$1,805,529	\$1,778,644

Had the prohibition not existed we would have exported to Germany in ten years about as much pork as Mr. Blaine claims we shall hereafter export to her each year.

It will be noticed that Mr. Blaine forgot to say anything about the German tariff on our pork. The reason he did not was because Germany still imposes a high duty which will keep out our pork about as well as the prohibition of it has done. In effect, there is no difference whether the prohibition is effected directly or indirectly by high duties.

But what becomes of Mr. Blaine's assertion that the removal by Germany of its prohibition law was a triumph of reciprocity, when President Harrison declares through his private secretary: "The removal of the pork restriction has nothing to do with any question of reciprocity, but is based upon the acceptance by the German government of the inspection of meats by this government under the law of the last congress."

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

The free schools for colored children in Virginia for the past twenty years have cost nearly six million dollars.

The estimate for the maintenance of the public schools of New York for the ensuing year is \$4,627,632, which includes \$3,000 for an exhibit at the world's fair.

Two graduates from Harvard "Amner" will open a school at Menlo Park, San Mateo county, Cal., to prepare young women for college, with special reference to Stanford university.

Frances E. Willard wants to have a professor of total abstinence connected with the new American university in Washington, and proposes to raise a fund to support such a professorship.

The imperial university at Tokio, Japan, is probably the largest in the world, having an enrollment of two thousand scholars, and a faculty of forty members. It is under government control.

The number of students seeking admission into the St. Vladimir university at Kiev, Russia, is four hundred and sixty. Of this number one hundred and sixty are Jews. According to the prevailing laws only thirty Jews can be admitted.

The chapel in the sequestered Augustinian convent at Heidelberg, in which the monk, Martin Luther, had preached during the convention of the order in 1518, has been given for a place of worship to a newly-organized Lutheran congregation in that reformed city.

The summary of the work done by all the Christian denominations in Utah is about as follows: Eighty-five mission Christian schools in seventy-eight different towns, employing one hundred and seventy-two Christian teachers, educating about six thousand five hundred pupils, three-fourths of whom are from Mormon families.

The Icelandic version of the New Testament was printed in Denmark in 1840. The three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of this event was celebrated with much rejoicing by the Icelanders resident in and near Winnipeg. They are good Lutherans, and show their faithfulness by earnest study and obedience to the Word.

The oldest college graduate in America, so far as is known, is Amos Andrew Parker, of Fitzwilliam, N. H. He is also the alumnus who has been graduated the greatest number of years from an American college. He graduated from the university of Vermont in 1813, and recently he celebrated his one hundredth birthday. He is a finely-preserved old gentleman, does not look to be more than seventy-five, and reads, writes and gets about like a man of fifty.

According to Practical Electricity, electrical instruction is now to be added to the other studies in the course provided for young men in the evening classes of the Young Men's Christian association of Boston. Mr. A. P. R. Fisk, a graduate of the Massachusetts institute of technology, and at present engaged with the Thomson-Houston Electric Co., will deliver a course of twenty-four lectures on successive Friday evenings, and the course will be illustrated by numerous experiments.

One of the aids offered to prospective students of Vassar, not well-to-do, is the scholarship of \$500 awarded by the Vassar Students' Aid society. It is loaned to a student who passes the entrance examinations without conditions and covers half of all the expenses for one year. Examinations are held in nearly a dozen of our leading cities. The chairman of the committee managing this scholarship is Miss Jessie F. Smith, of South Weymouth, Mass.

HOME INFLUENCES.

The Foundation Stones in the Character of Children.

Unhappy and undisciplined homes are the caldrons of great iniquity. Parents harsh and cruel on the one hand, or on the other hand loose in their government, are raising up a generation of vipers. A home where scolding and fretfulness are dominant is blood relation to the gallows and the penitentiary! Petulance is a serpent that crawls up into the family nursery sometimes and crushes everything. Why, there are parents who even make religion disgusting to their children. They scold them for not loving Christ. They have an exasperating way of doing their duty. Blessed is the family altar at which the children kneel. Blessed is the cradle in which the Christian mother rocks the Christian child. Blessed is the song the little ones sing at nightfall when sleep is closing the eyes and loosening the hand from the toy on the pillow. Blessed is that mother whose every heart-throb is a prayer for her children's welfare. The world grows old, and the stars will cease to illuminate it, and the waters to refresh it, and the mountains to guard it, and its long story of sin and shame and glory and triumph will turn to ashes; but influences that started in the early home roll on and up through all eternity—blooming in all the joy, waving in all the triumph, exulting in all the song, or shrinking back into all the darkness. Father, mother, which way are you leading your children?—Talmage.

LAYER CAKE.

In making layer cake one sometimes tires of using jelly or chocolate for filling, and eggs and raisins make an agreeable change, as well as a richer cake. Take one-half pound of eggs and one cup of raisins. Cut the eggs in half and steam the raisins for half an hour, then chop while warm. Beat the white of an egg to a stiff froth and add to the fruit, together with two-thirds of a cupful of granulated sugar and one teaspoonful of vanilla. This is now ready to be spread between the layers of cake. A good formula for layer cake is as follows: One cupful of sugar, one-half cupful of butter, one-half cupful of sweet milk, the beaten whites of four eggs, two cupfuls of flour and a heaping teaspoonful of baking powder.—San Francisco Chronicle.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Q. And Crucified—John 19:18—How many verses 11-19.

[Spoken, 'Ally Arranged from S. S. Quarterly.]
A. How many verses 11-19.
GOLDEN TEXT.—For Christ also hath once suffered for us.—1 Pet. 2:24.
CENTRAL TEXT.—Christ crucified is the wisdom and power of God for the salvation of men.

THE.—Friday, April 3. A. D. 30, from noon to the morning till three in the afternoon.
PLACE.—Calvary (Golgotha), just outside the walls of Jerusalem, on the northwest.
PARALLEL ACCOUNTS.—Matt. 27:32-50; Mark 15:27-47; Luke 23:33-44.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—(1) On the way to the cross (v. 17). "And He bearing His cross," each victim was accompanied by four soldiers. Jesus bore His cross as long as He could, and then Simon, from Cyrene in Africa, was compelled to help Him. A great multitude followed. "Golgotha," Hebrew for "skull." Calvary is from the Latin for skull. The place was a knoll in the shape of a skull. (2) The Crucifixion (vs. 18-20). Jesus was nailed to the cross so that His feet would be but a short distance from the ground. (3) "Hebrew," etc.; the three chief languages there spoken. (4) The First of the Seven Words from the Cross. "Father, forgive them," spoken while Jesus was being affixed to the cross (Luke 23:34). (5) The Four Soldiers divide the Garments of Jesus Among Themselves (vs. 35, 36). (6) Noon after nine o'clock. (7) His coat, a long tunic or undergarment. (8) "The Scripture...fulfilled." Ps. 22:14. (9) Mockeries Around the Cross (Matt. 27:39-44). Nine to twelve o'clock. (10) Conversion of the Penitent Robber (Luke 23:43). Toward noon. (11) The Mother of Jesus and Other Women (vs. 55-57). Toward noon. (12) His mother's sister? Salome, the mother of John. "Cleopas," rather Cleopas, the same as Alphaeus, the father of James the less. (13) Darkness Over All the Land (Matt. 27:45). From twelve to three o'clock. (14) The Closing Scenes (vs. 46-50). About three o'clock. (15) "All...accomplished," the same word as finished (v. 39). His whole work was done; all that the Scriptures had foretold, all necessary for redemption. "Scripture." Ps. 41:14. (16) "Vinegar," common sour wine for the soldiers to drink. (17) "It is finished," what was finished? His life on earth, His life's work, the cup of suffering, the atonement for the sins of the world, the old era and dispensation, the prophecies of Scripture (10), accompanying Signs. Earthquake, veil of the temple rent and graves opened.

SUBJECTS FOR FURTHER STUDY.—Crucifixion.—Calvary.—The title.—The women around the cross.—John and the mother of Jesus.—"It is finished."—Accompanying signs.—The atonement.

LESSON COMMENT.

From nine o'clock until twelve and from twelve o'clock until three Christ hung upon the cross, patient, uncomplaining, suffering, dying—a spectacle for men and angels to weep over. During those six hours of agony He spoke seven times. All of these utterances are significant, but to three of them we desire to direct special attention.

A PRAYER FOR THE CROSS.—A prayer for Himself? No, but for those who were nailing Him fast to the tree.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Truly, to pray for these men was divine. It is a comforting thought that this prayer was answered, for later on we read that they exclaimed: "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:54). It seems as though the hearts of the centurions and his fellows were touched with Divine power, so that when He died their faith sprang up in spite of His death and triumphed in the darkest hour of the world's history.

HIS PROMISE ON THE CROSS.—Two thieves hung near Him that day. Both began blaspheming Him. At some time during the morning one of them was touched, repented, prayed. At the time he uttered the words: "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom," he seems to have been the only soul living whose faith had not gone out in utter darkness. The one bright ray at that awful scene streamed from the cross of that repentant thief. For his prayer shows three things: (1) that he believed Jesus was Lord; (2) that he believed Jesus was going into His kingdom; (3) that Jesus had power to bless him from the kingdom to which He was going. To this prayer Jesus answers by a gracious promise: "To-day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise."

THE AWFUL CRY ON THE CROSS.—About three o'clock in the afternoon, after three hours of silence and of darkness, the air was suddenly rent with an awful cry. For with a great voice Jesus cried: "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" What depth of soul-agony gave birth to that cry, no one will ever know. It was not bodily suffering that evoked it, but intense spiritual anguish. Hints may be gathered from passages like that in Isaiah 53:10: "Yet it pleased Jehovah to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief," and 1 Peter 2:24, where we read: "Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree." In some mysterious way, the sins of the world rolled over Christ as He hung there; and the light even of God's face seems to have been withdrawn from the well-beloved Son. There and then it was, that He made atonement for our sins, and paid the ransom for our souls. Not the teachings, but the sufferings, of Jesus, are our ransom. Not the life of Jesus, but His death, has opened the way of salvation for you and for me. The prayer for the soldiers, and the promise to the thief, gain their power and efficiency from the suffering which evoked the mighty cry of agony that day.—Rev. A. F. Schaffner, D. D.

LESSONS FROM THE CROSS.

1. The steps of the repentant thief: (1) acknowledgment of his sins, (2) confession that Christ is innocent, (3) faith in Jesus, (4) prayer, (5) assurance of eternal life in Paradise.

2. Verses 26, 27. The height of unselfishness is to remember others' needs, even in the hours of greatest agony.

3. Christ crucified is the wisdom and power of God for the salvation of men. He is the only solution of the question how God can be just and true, and yet forgive all who repent and believe.

4. The atonement on the cross (1) shows God's hatred of sin. (2) It shows the terrible evil of sin. (3) It shows that we cannot enter Heaven unless cleansed from our sin. (4) It shows the forgiving love of God. (5) It shows the value of our salvation.

—And as the snowdrop becomes the raindrop, and the raindrop becomes the juice of fruits and flowers, so our troubles, though they fall cold on the branch, melt, and carry sap to the root. Continued troubles are not, therefore, evidences of God's displeasure.—Christian Union.